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**"Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently,
so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen
and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life;
but make them known to your sons and your grandsons." Deuteronomy 4:9**

Dear Friends,

It's our 25th Anniversary! Let's take time for some remembrances. It was June 1, 1991 when Sam Ericsson left his ten-year tenure at Christian Legal Society to launch Advocates International. Here is what Sam wrote in 2002 (the 11th Anniversary):

At the time, I understood how Abraham must have felt when he "went out not knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8) There was no plan, program or paycheck, but a growing passion to help the Church – as a lawyer – rebuild after the devastation left by 70 years of communism's tyranny. The idea of a global network of advocates reaching 125 [now over 150] nations did not yet exist.

In that June 2002 newsletter, Sam shared about the newly emerging regional networks. Advocates Australia hosted a regional conference in Queensland in 2002, attended by 90 lawyers, including lawyers from Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. This coming September, Brisbane will be the host city for the 3rd Australasian & 15th Advocates Asia conference. The Global Council will hold its annual meeting there and there is an effort to begin a Christian law school in Australia. In addition, we heard from a number of our colleagues in Tonga who hope to attend. Please pray with us for these key meetings.

Also in 2002, Advocates Europe was planning a second regional conference of 22 nations in Sofia, Bulgaria. They will meet together in February 2017 in Tenerife, Canary Islands, hosted by Foro Evangélico del Derecho (Advocates Spain). The inaugural Advocates Europe conference, attended by 70 lawyers from 14 nations, was held in Portugal on September 11, 2001. Some of you may recall that Sam was stuck in Europe, unable to fly home to the USA.

The 4th Advocates Africa conference was held in Accra, Ghana in 2002 where the President of Ghana, a lawyer, gave the opening address to over 300 delegates from 17 nations. In 2017, Ghana will once again host, this time the 12th Advocates Africa conference. The Advocates Latin America (now FIAJC) network, begun in 2001, held its 2nd conference in Costa Rica in 2002 where Judge Ken Starr was the keynote speaker. In 2017, Brazil will host the 12th Christian

Lawyers Conference of the Federación Inter Americana de Juristas Cristianos. With a new generation of young lawyers now leading it, the region has seen an explosion of engagement across Latin America. Praise God for these faithful Advocates who understand His calling for them to serve the Body of Christ in their region.

In 2001, Advocates Asia was launched at its first conference in South Korea. They caught Sam's vision and sent a delegation of South Korean lawyers and judges to Kyrgyzstan in the summer of 2002. This month, Advocates' board member, Dean Jeff Brauch, will attend the 3rd Advocates Central Asia conference in Kyrgyzstan on my behalf. In September, as noted above, the 15th Advocates Asia Conference will be held in Brisbane, Australia in conjunction with the 3rd Australasia Conference.

Finally, our work in Albania is going as strong now as it was back in 2002. That year, Roger Sherrard played a key role in the 9th Albanian Judicial Conference with over 300 judges. We continue in our efforts to help that nation to establish a truly independent judiciary, a dream that continues to face resistance from parliament. There is still much to be done and we are encouraged with the news that the next generation will be joining the battle. Some of you may remember John Johnson, a former AI staff attorney who lived in Albania 20 years ago with his family. His daughter is a relatively new attorney and plans to travel "back" to Albania later this summer with Roger Sherrard. Please pray with us for the ongoing efforts, particularly for the documentary on Shkodra, and the fight against corruption.

Having worked at Advocates twenty years ago, it is such an amazing thing to witness God's faithfulness throughout these past 25 years. As the children of Abraham were reminded in Deuteronomy, "do not forget the things your eyes have seen, but make them known to your sons [and daughters] and grandsons." That is why we take the time to remember what God has done through Advocates, and are excited to see the next generation joining the battles.

Please continue to pray with us for the upcoming gatherings of Christian lawyers and judges; advocates, like Nguyen Van Dai, who remain in prison; and for our ongoing work in Albania. Your prayers and financial support allow us to encourage and equip Advocates to do justice with compassion around the globe. Let us not forget what God has done.

May the Lord bless and keep you in His perfect . . .

Grace and Peace,



Brent McBurney
President and CEO